

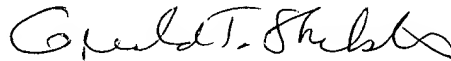
**REMARKS**

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 7-9, 11-13 and 16-50 as being anticipated by Tanitsu, et al. Applicant has amended each independent claim herein so that each independent claim now contains the limitation that the projection exposure system of the subject invention has a phase-retarding plate in the beam path upstream of the beam splitter. This construction is not shown in any of the art of record and accordingly, the Applicant believes the claims as amended to now be allowable.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and re-examination thereof.

With the above amendments and the remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance, and Applicants earnestly solicit an early notice of same. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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